Name: John Maher

Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #2 (DVD Region Coding): Audiovisual works stored on Digital Versatile Disks ("DVDs") that are not available in Region 1 DVD format and access to which is prevented by technological measures.

Summary:

Disc name: Vidocq

Fair Use would dictate that I should be able to use the software that I buy as long as I'm not doing anything that infringes on the creator's ability to be properly compensated for his/her creation (i.e. that I won't turn around and make copies of it for resale). It is terribly frustrating that, when I buy a title, such as "Vidocq," that is not available in the U.S., I can't use it in the way that I see fit.

Region- encoding and copy protection violate any sort of free-market standards that we've been taught to operate under. The real question is: who benefits? Not the creator. Not the consumer. The record and music companies, who are primarily distributors, are the only ones who benefit, which hurts both the consumer and the creator in the long run. Too bad for us.